Bangor Daily News

(2)

Helms wasn't asked about death plots

BDN 6/25/76

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Richard Helms, former CIA chief, never mentioned U.S. plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to the Warren Commission investigating President Kennedy's death because he was never asked about them, a Senate report showed Thursday.

The late Allen W. Dulles, director of the CIA when the plots began and a member of the seven-man commission, might have been expected to reveal the schemes, Helms intimated to a special Senate committee.

A 106-page Senate study of intelligence community cooperation —or lack of it — with the Warren Commission was published Wednesday. It revealed the commission did not explore the possibility of a "Cuban connection" between the CIA plots and Kennedy's assassination.

"Mr. Allen Dulles was a member of the Warren Commission and the first assassination plot happened during his time as director," Helms told Sen. Frank Church July 18, 1975 in testimony published for the first time in the new study. "What he said to the Warren Commission about this ... I don't know.

"But at least he was sitting right there, in the commission's deliberations and knew about this, and I am sure that the same thought that occurred to you must have occurred to him."

In testimony July 17, 1975, Helms said he never told the Warren Commission about the plots either although he testified as CIA deputy director of plans. He said he was not asked.

"I was instructed to reply to inquiries from the Warren Commission for information from the agency. I was not asked to initiate any particular thing," Helms, now ambassador to Iran, told Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, co-chairman of the special Senate study into the intelligence community cooperation with the Warren Commission, has urged Helms be called to testify before any renewed inquiry.